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The chiective of this program was to bring together four investigators whose								
expertise was in the area of polymer synthesis, characterization, rheology and processing,								
solid state morphology and mechanical behavior . and to integrate these efforts toward the								
synthesis of new elastomers and polymeric matrix resins suitable for organic composites.								
The abstract describes some highlights of research findings and potential applications.								
In addition, in an appendix we have included statistics on publications, preprints, and MS and PhD theses supported by this contract,								
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Liquid crystalline copolymers are of great current interest and have already been demonstrated to be important reinforcing fibers for both elastomers and composites. This study has principally dwelt upon the relationships between chemical structure, rheology, morphology, and mechanical behavior. In addition, thermotropic polyesters and their blends with conventional PET have also been examined and show promise as advanced materi `s.

Inverse gas chromatography (IGC) has been used to probe polymer coatings with a variety of organic liquids as the mobile phase. Depending upon the relative retention times, important thermodynamic behavior can be derived. This has applications in the swelling of polymers and elastomers and also in the transport of agents through solid polymeric films. A second important technique that has been studied and further developed by this research is solid state NMR. This method has the ability to identify and define chemical structure and possibly molecular motion in elastomers, glasses, and various network structures.

Polyisobutylene ion containing copolymers containing sulfonate end groups were investigated. Trifunctionality allowed for excellent mechanical properties as a combined result of ionic associations and strain induced crystallization. The ionic reinforcing phase could lead to new elastomeric materials with interesting transport properties that could possibly catalyze the decomposition of liquid agents.

The synthesis efforts over the three-year ARO research contract were extensive and focused on anionic, cationic, ring-opening, and group transfer synthetic methods for the preparation of novel homo- and block copolymer elastomers based upon hydrogenated dienes, methacrylates, epoxides, and siloxanes. The numerous publications based upon this work are included in the appendix section A. Suffice it to say that a number of novel materials were generated, several of which showed important new physical properties. In addition to the focus on elastomeric materials, the second area of intense interest was the development of new and modified matrix materials. In this latter area, effort was extended to further understand the fundamentals of poly(arylene ether)s, including the first demonstration of molecular motion in deuterium labeled poly(arylene ether)s using deuterium NMR measurements. The results indicated that the arylene ether bonds underwent 180° ring flips even at temperatures, e.g. well below the glass transition temperature. Additional efforts were focused on the modification of engineering polymers with thermally stable siloxane systems. Emphasis was placed on further studies of the bulk and solution phase separation characteristics of these new materials and it was clearly demonstrated that selective surface migration of the hydrophobic siloxane chains could occur. This phenomena is no doubt important in membrane technology, as well as in biomaterials.

# ELASTOMERS AND OTHER ORGANIC COMPOSITES

### FINAL REPORT

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MAY 28, 1990

U.S. ARMY RESEARCH OFFICE

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### APPENDIX

### (A) Publications:

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- R. D. Allen, Ph.D., Chemistry, June 1985, "Synthesis of Novel Methacrylate-Containing Polymers by Anionic Polymerization." Current Employer: IBM; San Jose, California.
- P. Sormani, Ph.D., Chemistry, February 1986, "The Ring-Opening Polymerization of Cyclosiloxanes in the Presence of Bis(α, ω-aminopropyl)-1-3-Tetramethyldisiloxane."
   Current Employer: DuPont; Wilmington, Delaware.
- 3. J. Senger, M.S., Chemistry, November 1986, "Polyhydroxy Ethers, Synthesis, Analysis, and Crosslinking," Ph.D. Candidate, Materials Engineering Science.
- 4. S. D. Wu, Ph.D., Chemistry, June 1987, "Synthesis and Characterization of Modified Poly(Arylene Ether Ether Ketone) Copolymers." Current Employer: EniMont; Monmouth Junction, New Jersey.
- 5. S. D. Smith, Ph.D., Chemistry, August 1987, "Synthesis of Novel Siloxane-Containing Block and Graft Copolymers by Anionic Polymerization and Macromonomer Technique."

  Current Employer: Procter & Gamble; Cincinnati, Ohio.
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- 7. J. A. Cecere, Ph.D., Materials Engineering Science, February 1988, "Structure-Property Relationships of Functionalized Modifiers for Thermosetting Resin Systems." Current Exployer: Brunswick Corporation; Marion, Virginia.
- 8. C. Cho, Ph.D., Chemistry, March 1988, "Controlled Polymerization of Vinyl Alkyl Ethers."

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- 9. A. Hellstern, Ph.D., Chemistry, February 1989, "Synthesis, Characterization, and Kinetic Investigation of Heterophase Materials Prepared Using Group Transfer Polymerization," Current Employer: GE, Schenectady, New York.
- 10. R. Kim Yoon, M.S. Graduate, Materials Engineering, December 1989, "Siloxane Modified Polyurea and Polyurethane Urea Segmented Copolymers".
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- 13. N. M. Patel, Ph.D. Candidate, Materials Engineering Science.
- 14. G. A. York, Ph.D. Candidate, Materials Engineering Science.
- 15. Dr. S. Kilic, Visiting Scientist, University of Ankara, 1985-June 1988 Current Employer: PPG, Pittsburgh, PA
- 17. Margaret Sheridan, PhD, 1986; Current Employer: 3M.
- 18. Ed Balcells, MS, Medical School.
- 19. Paul Koning, PhD, 1988; Current Employer: Amoco Chemical.
- 20. Dr. Liao Kairong, China.
- 21. Ken G. Blizard, MS, February 1986; PhD, March 1988.
- 22. Dishong S. Done, PhD, June 1987.
- 23. S. Bagrodia, PhD, 1985;
  Current Employer: Eastman Kodak.

- 24. R. Pisipati, PhD, 1986; Current Employer: Mobay, Bayer, USA.
- 25. M. R. Tant, PhD, 1986; Current Employer: Eastman Kodak
- 26. Eugene Joseph, PhD, 1987; Current Employer: 3M.
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